

**From:** umbdae@nodots-daemon@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/18/01 8:08pm  
**Subject:** Proposed Microsoft antitrust settlement

To whom it may concern:

I must object in the strongest possible terms to the proposed settlement of the Microsoft antitrust lawsuit. The net effect of this settlement is a complete cave-in on the part of the government, AFTER winning a finding of fact in the trial court. I can see nothing in this agreement that benefits consumers or the public at large, but I can see that this settlement will allow Microsoft to continue its anti-competitive activities, but now under the approval of the U.S. government.

The best outcome to this situation would be to split Microsoft into multiple companies, but I recognize that this is not a viable option in the current economic environment. Given these realities, the next best option would be to require Microsoft to publish:

- \* the entire Windows applications programming interface (API) in a manner that would allow others to reverse engineer clones of the Windows operating system.
- \* the complete file format of each Microsoft application, such as Word or Excel in a manner that would allow others to reverse engineer work alike applications.
- \* the complete specification of any Microsoft extensions to industry standards such as the Kerberos security interface. Microsoft must not be allowed to "embrace and extend" software into proprietary implementations.

For at least the next 10 years, Microsoft must be required to publicize the APIs and file formats for all its applications at least 60 days prior to their release to prevent Microsoft from creating "moving target" applications.

There is ample historic precedent for imposing these rather mild restrictions on Microsoft. Just as one example, AT&T was required to open its networks to other carriers and to create a standard plug interface to allow other manufacturers to sell telephones.

While I appreciate the governments large amount of work, the current settlement is not sufficient to protect the consumer or the national interest. Please go back and create a settlement that works for all of us.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

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